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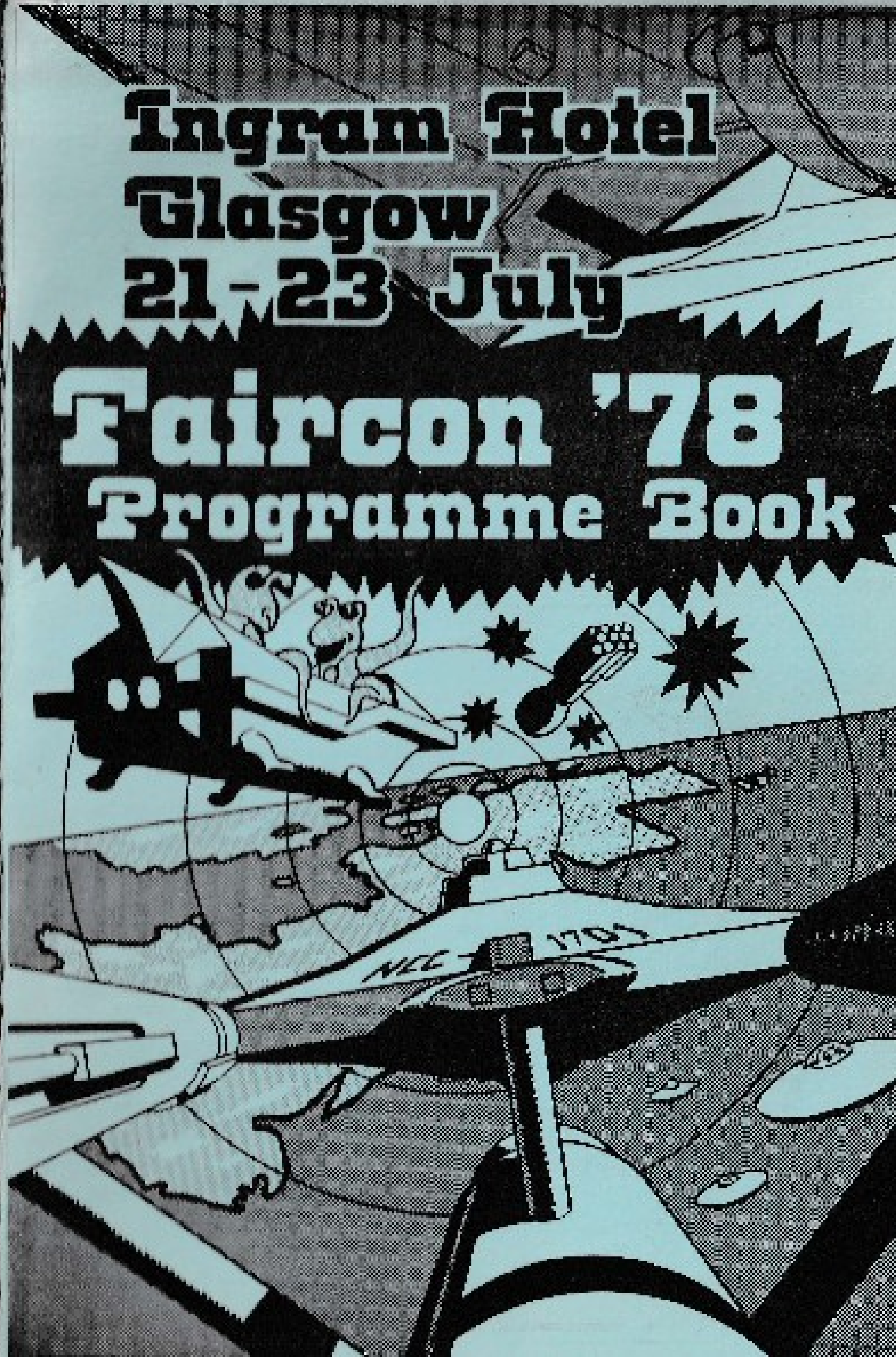

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FAIRCON '78

sf convention

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Cover by Ed Buckley.

FAIRCON '78

WELCOMES YOU

Are you still reading your science fiction book inside a copy of "[illegible] [illegible]"? Tired of trying to look inconspicuous in your [illegible] waiting in the cinema queue for "STAR WARS"? Worry no more! YOU ARE AMONG FANS NOW!!!

Feel free to talk about [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], TAFF, D&D, [illegible], [illegible], and the like (by the way, D&D in this case does not mean "drunk and disorderly"). The people you see chatting to SF authors are fans just like you!

Don't be afraid to join in a discussion, behind every extrovert is an introvert trying to get back in.

FAIRCON '78 heartily welcomes YOU to this, the first Science Fiction Convention to be held in Scotland. JOIN IN THE FUN! ENJOY YOURSELF!

★ ★ ★

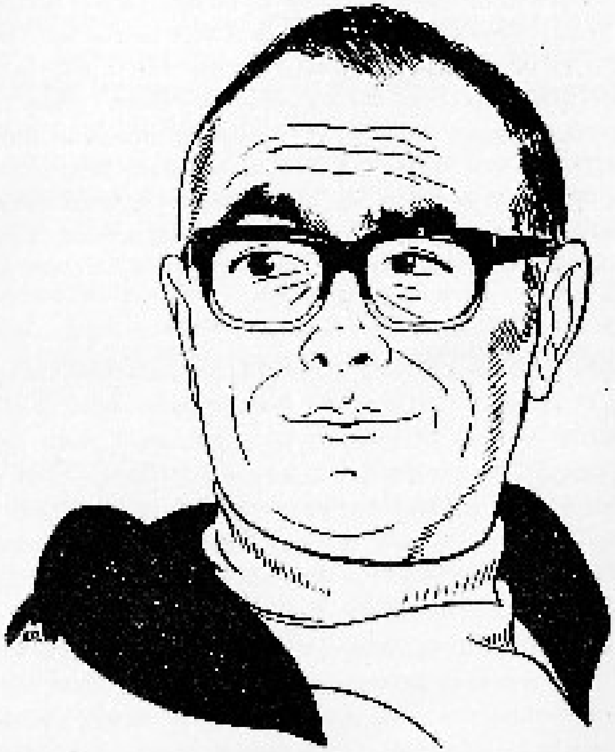
Don Malcolm People can be lucky in life in many ways, usually associated with the possession of material things. However, true friendship is one of the most valuable things of all, so it is with great pleasure that I write this small tribute to James White, our Guest of Honour at FAIRCON. Jim and I have been friends since 1962 and a little of the story appeared in [illegible].

Jim was born in Belfast in 1928. His first working years were spent as a tailor, but for the last 12 years he has been in the Publicity Department of Shorts in Belfast.

1978 is a milestone for Jim to celebrate his 25th year as a writer. Writing is a very demanding craft and it has been to our lasting benefit that Jim's commitment to science fiction has been total, as a fan writer and novice, a [illegible], and as a professional. By my latest reckoning, he has written [illegible] stories, including nine novels, one of which, ALL JUDGMENT FLED, won the Europa Prize in 1972. Two of his stories were short-listed for the Hugo award: [illegible] and CUSTOM FITTING. His forthcoming novel, UNDERKILL, no doubt [illegible] the [illegible].

Jim was Eastercon's first G.o.H in [illegible] and was also honoured at Brugge in [illegible], at [illegible]. To those of you who have already met him, I need say nothing. If you have not had the pleasure, then I envy you the experience. The term "first contact" I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] with his charming wife, Peggy, he's also very quick with a quip.

I am delighted to welcome your Guest of Honour, Science Fiction's Irish gen.......



James White

Kenneth Bulmer

Any appreciation of James White, however brief, must state the obvious: he is a remarkable man, a fine writer, charming, unassuming, filled with a concern for his fellow men that is reflected in all he does and writes. Prophet of the Zap Gun, James detests Vulgar Ostentation. His Sector General stories have received wide acclaim not so much for their excellence of technical background or cleverness – all of which they are and have par excellence – but for the deep and caring humanity they reveal. Not a prolific writer, James has produced work of a consistently high quality and superbly realised imagination. His sense of humour is extraordinarily profound, witty, gentle – and, above all, funny. He is a true punster with the Belfast Triangle pedigree. He first came to prominence in the fan field as an artist in SLANT, creator of the Ball-Point Spaceship. Then the searing experience of riding in my Fan Van forced him into print with a piece entitled "I Rode with Bulmer". This was his first published work. I replied with "I Drove James White". Since then his work has delighted his many admirers, and we all look forward to very many more of those 'James White' stories that are marked by his own brand of wit, brilliance and compassion.

Harry Harrison

It would be presumption for me, a humble writer, to attempt to speak of the worth of James White, that [illegible] to the heights that can be scaled in SF. But speak I must, for the truth must be known. Did you realise that he once wrote a 100,000 word novel titled SPACEHOUNDS OF THE IPC – then sent it to an impoverished cereal chemist in the US because he had lost his grandmother's famous doughnut mix recipe he had promised? And hoped the MS would do instead. As you know, with a few changes, the rest is history.

Dare I also tell you of his generosity in sending an outline of a wild idea of a baby reared by marmosets or monkeys or some such? He planned the book himself, but could not put aside the pitiful plea for help from an unknown American [illegible] named Burroughs (not William), particularly since the begging letter was written on a compressed buffalo chip. But James will be with you himself this weekend, so ask him about these things, and watch the boyish blush rise to his cheek. Good luck, Jim! And bring back a souvenir bicycle chain to wear under your collar when next you go pub-crawling in Belfast.

John Brunner

Occasionally during the course of Faircon you will see (though probably not hear, unless you are very close to him) the Guest of Honour. He can be recognised by his glasses – a pair on his nose and one in his hand – and the fact that he is of much more average height than most people. Possibly in order to maintain a balance he tends to have rather a soft voice. This is a phenomenon called James White.

Once upon a long time ago there was a legendary fanzine emanating from Belfast entitled SLANT. James White not only wrote for it, but contributed admirable drawings and cartoons, some of them in more colours than most people would believe, given that they were printed on a basic model of Adana. Later, there was another legendary fanzine called HYPHEN, which was not so pretty but much funnier. Jim did things for that, too.

He's a Good Man. Quiet and unassuming, he is nonetheless a person of strong convictions. He is blessed with a rich sense of humour and he makes terrible puns. (The two do not always coincide in the same individual, you know.) Scores of people will be trying to get next to him during this convention; let me cordially recommend that you do the same, because his company is worth having. Exactly how long ago I first met him, I don't recall, but I'm certain it was at least twenty years. Ever since, I've been glad we know each other.

Bob Shaw

Jim White was active in the science fiction community away back in the days when all one needed for the core of a good fanzine was a review of DESTINATION MOON; he was with us all through the years when all one needed for the core of a good fanzine was a review of 2001; he is still with us now that all one needs is a review of STAR WARS or CLOSE ENCOUNTERS; and I reckon he'll still be around when the movie moguls finally get around to filming one of my books. That is likely to be a long way into the future, but I'm not complaining because the longer we have his amiable presence in SF fandom the better it will be for everybody. He is a good SF writer, a good fan writer, a good friend – and even though his puns used to be a bit atrocious, three out of four isn't bad. The Faircon committee may be new to the business of organising conventions, but obviously they have a gift for the job, because they couldn't have chosen a better or more popular Guest of Honour for Glasgow in 1978.

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JAMES WHITE BIBLIOGRAPHY

by Gordon Johnson

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ALL JUDGEMENT FLED	IF, Dec.67-Feb.68.	Rapp & Whiting, 1968; Corgi, 1969; Walker 1969; Walker (large type) 1969; Ballantine 1970.
ANSWER CAME THERE NONE	Galaxy, Jan.74.	
APPRENTICE, THE	New Worlds 99, Oct.60.	*Out of this World 3*, ed. A.Williams-Ellis & M.Owen, Blackie, 1962; *Out of this World*, ed. A.Williams-Ellis & M.Owen, Blackie, 197_.
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CROSSFIRE	New Worlds 21, June 53.	*The Best from New Worlds*, ed.J.Carnell, T.V.Boardman, 1955.
ULRIATH GATE.	Nebula, Aug. 54.	

DARK INFERNO		M.Joseph, 1972.
DARK TALISMAN	Nebula, Oct.58.	
DEADLY LITTER	SF Adventures, Dec/Mar.60.	Deadly Litter (entry).
DOGFIGHT	New Worlds 81, Mar.59. New Worlds 2 (US), Apr.60.	Monsters & Medics (entry).
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ESCAPE ORBIT, THE (aka OPEN PRISON)		Ace, 19
FALSE ALARM	New Worlds 61, July 57.	
FAST TRIP	[illegible], Apr.65.	Out of This World 6, ed.A. Williams-Ellis & M.Owen, Blackie, 1967.
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HIGH ROAD	New Worlds 3 (US), May 60.	
IDEAL CAPTAIN, THE	New Worlds 74, Aug.58.	Deadly Litter (entry).
IN LOVING MEMORY	Nebula, Jan.56.	Monsters & Medics (entry).
INVADER		New Writings in SF-7, ed.J. Carnell, Dobson, 1966; Corgi, 19 ; not in Bantam edn.
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MAJOR OPERATION (short story)		New Writings in SF-18, ed. J.Carnell, Dobson, 1971; Corgi, 1971.
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PATROL	New Worlds 55, Jan.57.	
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SECOND ENDING (short version)		Out of This World 5, ed.A. Williams-Ellis & M.Owen, Blackie, 1965.
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SECTOR GENERAL	New Worlds 65, Nov. 57.	Hospital Station (entry).
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STAR WALK, THE	New Worlds 33, Mar.55.	
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COLLECTIONS

TITLE	PUBLISHER	CONTENTS
THE ALIENS AMONG US	Corgi, 1970; Ballantine, 1969.	Countercharm; To Kill or Cure; Red Alert; Tableau; The Conspirators; The Scavengers; Occupation : Warrior.
DEADLY LITTER	Corgi, 1968; Ballantine, 1964.	Deadly Litter; Grapeliner; The Ideal Captain; The Lights Outside the Window.

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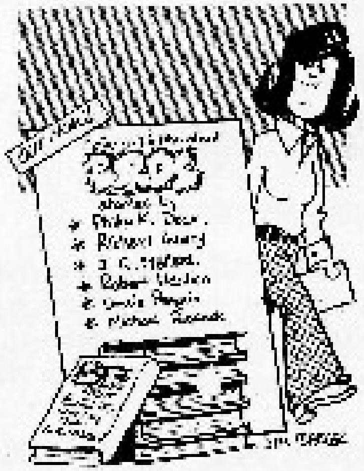
MONSTERS AND MEDICS	Corgi, 1977.	Second Ending; Counter Security; Dogfight; Nuisance Value; In Loving Memory.

Funcon '78

by Jim Barker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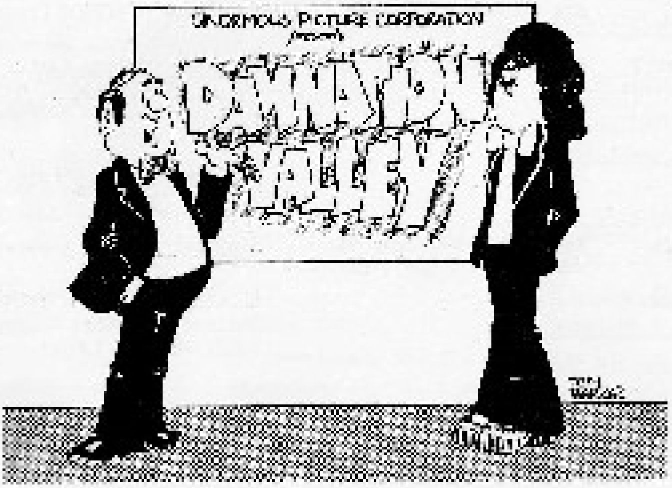
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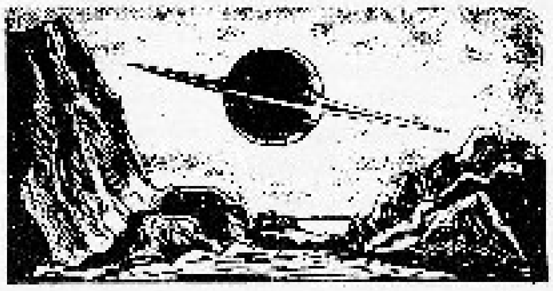

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Peter Hamilton was, throughout the 1950's, editor of the only science fiction magazine to be published in Scotland. In this [illegible] he [illegible] very [illegible] of the rise and fall of NEBULA. ([illegible])

[illegible]: What made you start NEBULA SCIENCE FICTION magazine?

[illegible]: Well, at the time NEBULA was started, there was a lot of science fiction. [illegible] the [illegible] NEBULA [illegible] published [illegible], [illegible] coming along, and there was a big influx of [illegible] like GALAXY and so on from America, so the public appeared to be there for it, and we thought that to put one out here in Scotland was not inappropriate.

[illegible]: When exactly did you start?

HAMILTON: The first issue came out at the end of 1952 and contained a very, very long story by [illegible], because originally the idea had been to put out a series of novels rather than a magazine. However, I wanted to do a magazine [illegible] more interesting. I thought it would give greater scope for what I could do with it. We looked at a couple of short stories and a few other ones and that was the first issue of NEBULA SCIENCE FICTION.

[illegible]: What were your problems in the early days?

[illegible]: It was almost all uphill in the early days - the biggest was distribution. It's funny, right up to the end in 1959 we were the most [illegible] [illegible], everything which is produced and circulated in Scotland has a very high resistance in England. [illegible] of a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] New York that we [illegible] just because of this very [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible], I think it was even worse, because we [illegible] [illegible] in Scotland, [illegible], that we [illegible] in Glasgow. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] that the good magazines were edited and produced [illegible] and [illegible] we had [illegible] kind of [illegible], which we found very strong.

[illegible] [illegible] to say that, when NEBULA [illegible], I was only [illegible] years old and [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] to do the things that [illegible] [illegible] have been done. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible].

There should have been more [illegible] [illegible] things like [illegible] - we probably didn't do enough. We [illegible] [illegible] and hoped that it would sell well, therefore I had to spend [illegible] [illegible] publicity [illegible] [illegible] I could have. [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] effect and [illegible] quite [illegible] [illegible] we became [illegible], from a fairly low threshold.

[illegible]: Did it take long to gain regular contributors of [illegible]?

[illegible]: No, that happened surprisingly quickly. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] from the [illegible], we had [illegible] (I [illegible] [illegible] or not. I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]), but we had several stories in early issues. [illegible], [illegible] (I think we had his [illegible] story), [illegible], [illegible], these were all people who kept [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] as soon as people saw a new science fiction magazine, edited in......the United Kingdom, small as [illegible].

[illegible] was very glad because he [illegible] for me a different type of story to those that he was writing for [illegible]. He [illegible] a sort of [illegible] series for me while he was doing [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] - and [illegible] every year, which shows how very [illegible] he had in the magazine.

[illegible]: What was the most memorable event in your period as editor?

[illegible]: Well, there were two [illegible] [illegible] which happened. There was a [illegible] [illegible]....[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], and he approached me at one of the earlier Conventions I went to - [illegible].

He asked me to put a questionnaire in the magazine asking [illegible] what magazines they read, which ones they liked, what sort of education they had [illegible] - a [illegible] profile of the science fiction reader of the day. In addition, a lot of ballot forms with the same questions were put out independently. When all the votes were counted, between [illegible] and [illegible] of those returned were from the NEBULA questionnaire, and NEBULA was voted as being the most popular magazine and one of the best-liked.

[illegible] of course, the [illegible] in London were [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to a [illegible] [illegible] a poll printed in a magazine [illegible] vote for that magazine as being the best [illegible], but as we all know, science fiction fandom [illegible] all magazines almost equally, so I [illegible] [illegible] - they voted for it because they liked it better than the [illegible].

The second thing was [illegible] [illegible] - [illegible] [illegible]. You [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] when you are in business, and this was one of the [illegible]. It was from a young [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] science fiction [illegible] [illegible] and some [illegible] had been [illegible] to bring [illegible] [illegible] of his favourweird magazine (they were going to call the fan mini after the magazine which got most votes). NEBULA got seven votes as against GALAXY's five, with all the others only two to three each. That pleased me very much.

[illegible]: Any funny things happen?

HAMILTON: The funniest things that happened were at Conventions. The first Convention I went to didn't make an awfully good impression because it was all that [illegible]. I think, at somewhere [illegible] some group was determined to disrupt the Convention for the rest. One of the things they had planned was to have a noise like breaking glass, then a deep voice singing "I Belong to Glasgow" as I was [illegible] of the [illegible] Convention - the joke being that I'm a teetotaller. Then they were all going to [illegible] with a pin in one hand and a balloon [illegible] in the other, and as the Convention [illegible] came up to the platform.....!

That would have been quite off-putting to say the least, but it was all good fun. (We found, when we were having lunch on the first day, that these people had [illegible] all of the sprays of flowers out of the hall without telling anybody) We had [illegible] Balls with [illegible] young ladies appearing as [illegible]. We had a drink called [illegible] which everyone was obliged to partake of (I [illegible] all kinds of things in it). We had a lot of good fun.

[illegible]: Did you make any [illegible] or was NEBULA a [illegible] effort?

HAMILTON: It was a [illegible] effort, there never was anybody else. [illegible] only we suffer from that [illegible] day.

[illegible]: You always had [illegible] [illegible] the other magazines [illegible] [illegible] the picture at the start of a story. Do you feel that [illegible] art in a story is a good thing?

HAMILTON: I think it is fair to say that at the time that we were using [illegible] [illegible] the other magazines were too. [illegible] the [illegible], [illegible] - certainly the British magazines - were using artwork on [illegible] the same basis as we were. Quite frankly, in retrospect, when I look at those old issues I think we would have been far better without most of it. I don't want to hurt anybody's feelings, but [illegible], science fiction is looking at the future and if you put in drawing it can look a bit old-fashioned. If I was putting out [illegible] the same thing now, I don't think I would have that type of illustration at all.

[illegible]: What do you think of present SF, both magazines and books?

HAMILTON: [illegible] day science fiction, or [illegible] of it I [illegible], I find totally incomprehensible. Of course [illegible] of [illegible] literature. I'm not [illegible] writing, but [illegible] they seem to write in a different language. They seem to talk about different things completely.

In the old days a story had a beginning, a middle, and an end. Now it just kind of.......[illegible]. So I find some of it [illegible], the rest of it... yes, I can still enjoy it very much!

To tell you the truth, I've been working on one or two stories of my own (they haven't gone any further than being worked up in my own head) and one day when I've got a [illegible] bit more time, I'll write them and perhaps get them rejected by somebody else.

[illegible]: NEBULA stopped just after the [illegible] Age began. Was it due to falling interest in SF at that time or was it coincidence?

HAMILTON: There were three main reasons why I stopped.

The first was that the [illegible] [illegible] stations were spreading throughout Great Britain, and I think there was a general [illegible] of people reading at all, because this was a [illegible] - bad [illegible] of television.

Secondly, we had gone into the export market fairly deeply. We had sent several thousand copies to the United States, and suddenly the American [illegible] decided to adopt a retrospective duty on half of the copies we had sent in while, at the same time, we got a [illegible] from the distributor there which indicated that only about [illegible] had been sold. However, we had to pay the full amount for all that had gone in. That was a body-blow.

The third one came from South Africa, where the [illegible]-of-payments problem at that time caused all imports of paperbacks - and we sold a lot of copies in South Africa.

All of these things happened within about four to six months. Coming in so short a time, they pulled our circulation right down and we just couldn't go on. It was a great pity, but there it is.

[illegible]: Do you believe there is a future for British SF magazines or will it remain an American field?

HAMILTON: I always believe there's a future in any country that WANTS a future. I think there's a future for Scottish science fiction. Since I am a Scot, it is only [illegible] I [illegible] express an opinion about, so let's hope that there will be another Scottish science fiction magazine. Let's hope that Scottish publishers will be prepared to put their money down, that there will be Scottish science fiction novels, and let the English [illegible] take care of themselves.

[illegible]: What advice would you give any budding Editors?

HAMILTON: Well - not to make any of the mistakes I made (and I made many) I suppose that the best thing that anyone could do who was going to start a science fiction magazine - this applies to publisher as well as editor - is a little bit of market research, with a few [illegible] words to the [illegible].

this trade. Get some production figure that you know you can sell. Find out whether it's going to be profitable at all for you before you get started. Perhaps a little more thought regarding policy in advance, not just rushing in to start the magazine.

But, of course, all these things are very easy to say in hindsight and anyone else going in enthusiastically would probably make as many mistakes as I.

[illegible]: Do you think you will ever revive NEBULA in the future, or start another magazine?

HAMILTON: I'd love to. This is something for when I've made a fortune selling records – one day. I might even do something like this though as a hobby -- so long as it wasn't losing a lot of money. I look back on the science fiction days as being the happiest days I had, because I met the nicest, the most interesting, and the most intelligent people of any job or occupation that I've been involved in. I found it interesting, intellectually satisfying, and I'd very much like to start again if ever this was possible.

* * *

P.S. from James White

I have very fond memories of NEBULA SCIENCE FICTION, the Glasgow-based magazine which gave so many U.K. authors the opportunity to display their talents, and of its extremely hard-working, able and mild-mannered editor, Peter Hamilton. Peter was such a gentle soul that, in my own experience, he could never reject a story in case it would hurt the author's feelings, preferring to retain it indefinitely unread.

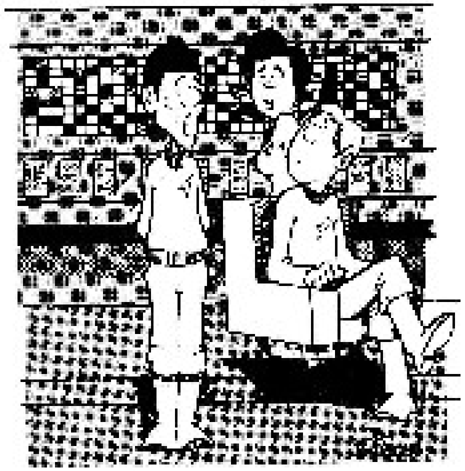
Several of my early stories appeared in NEBULA – and a couple which were real stinkers, were " retained " – and there were issues in which it seemed that a Hibernian takeover was being planned by the other set of Scots over here. Picking an issue at random, (No. 1?), we find the lead novelette [illegible] by Bob Shaw (the real one), a short [illegible] by myself, and the long-running and highly popular FANORAMA fan column by Walt Willis, with contributions from foreigners and relative unknowns such as Robert Heinlein and Ted Tubb.

We were very sorry in Belfast when NEBULA had to fold.

* * *

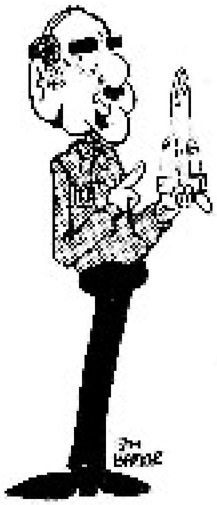
Funcon '78

by Jim Barker



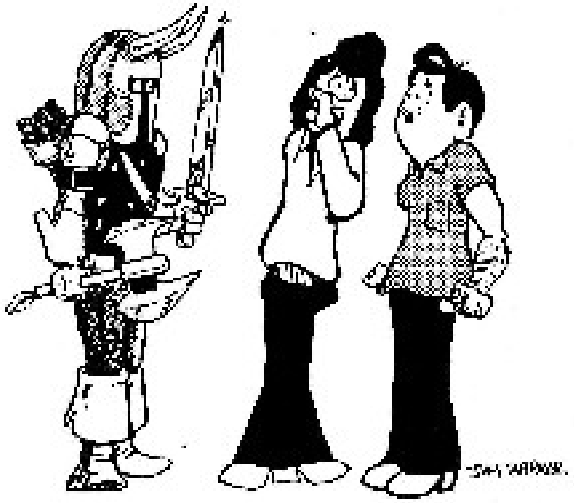
PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE BRIDGE, CAPTAIN?

MY [illegible]



ALL TOGETHER NOW,

[illegible], WE GO, [illegible] GO...



I THINK SOME PEOPLE ARE TAKING THIS [illegible]

JUST A WEE BIT TOO SERIOUSLY....

ATLANTIS : Scotch Mist

By A. Ogg and I. Mohr (Department of Grant-Attracting Activities, College of Distilling and Brewing, Drumbeg, Utter Hebrides)

INTRODUCTION: The hitherto unsuspected relationship between the lost continent of Atlantis and the West of Scotland is explored. Connections are established and a mechanism by which the island was transported from the mid-Atlantic to the Firth of Clyde is suggested.

The Holy City of which Jerusalem is supposed to be but a meagre earthly reflection, is reputed to exist in 'heaven' and be a place inhabited by God. Evidently this indicates a memory of some long-vanished city, peopled by some very superior individuals who held great and wondrous knowledge, including the ability to make people believe that they were flying. This latter aspect indicates most strongly that they passed on the secrets of distilling and brewing to the later cultures of East and West.

Yet there is still one city and one area of the world where the great god Al-co-hol is worshipped. In the West of Scotland this god is worshipped, (not merely with a weekly fervour) centred on the City of Glasgow where institutions for indulging in the deep-rooted basic religion abound. Furthermore, it is clearly seen as a competitor by the modern Christian churches in Scotland who decry it loudly. While their congregations diminish, the popularity of the Old Ways remains ever constant - through rich times and poor - revealing a profound commitment to the half-forgotten rituals of Atlantis.

Could we have found the Holy City? The name Glasgow comes from an ancient source and means 'the dear green place'. How can this be when the city is evidently anything but green? It must be an allusion of some kind. Could any survivors of Atlantis, recently arrived in the West of Scotland, have named their new home in memory of their old?

Is there any evidence to suggest that Scotland was the home at any time of an impressive culture overshadowing in its capabilities that of the rest of the world? Strangely enough there is. It would appear that the builders of the megalithic observatories at Callanish and elsewhere in Scotland began their work here before moving to England and other non-Scottish sites.

How did this high degree of paleolithic engineering ability emerge abruptly amongst the primitive peoples of that time? Does it coincide with the emergence of Scotland as a whisky distilling power in the world?

Furthermore there is a startling revelation to be had in the fact that one of the principal ritual sites in Glasgow is actually called 'Parkhead'. Here thousands indulge in the age-old ceremonies associated with the worship of gods and hero-figures. The consumption of the Red Liquid (copied and debased in other religious rites) is a central part of these weekly practices. Interestingly enough a sub-ritual associated with this is a game which involves the kicking of a ball in [illegible] over the central turf area of the place of worship. The significance of this will become clear in a few minutes.

Other more subtle clues to Glasgow's identity as the new Atlantis/Heavenly City can be teased out with further application of imagination and a grant from the Department of Industry, plus the employing of Mr. Mohr's cousin's brother-in-law under the Jobs Creation, don't you know!

Place names are a proper old giveaway, if you don't mind me saying so. In Glasgow we have eight beginning with Abbey, five with Bishop, eight with Chapel, fifteen with Church - and this is only the first three letters of the alphabet! Evidently there is a great religiousness deeply embedded in the subconscious mind of the Glaswegian. This is most pertinently expressed in the witty repartee between the two most prevalent religious sects. "Which yin [illegible] Clyde [illegible] 'n pull it oot [illegible]" is redolent with [illegible] references to an urge to rediscover the long-lost home continent beneath the waves!!

In the great Central American civilisations we find that the Aztec capital, Tenochtitlan, was designed as a copy of the capital city of their homeland beyond the waves to the East - Aztlan. This was a city built around a system of concentric circles, as described in the works of Plato. Fortunately, cities are more than mere collections of buildings; they are organic entities within which the people perform the functions of body cells. It is in the people themselves that we find the original city, not in the geography shaped by the vagaries of trade and industry and totalitarian local government.

In the climax of the worship ritual, generally on a Friday and Saturday night, true adherents of the faith will be found in the streets performing strange swimming motions, on their knees and often when spreadeagled on the pavement. Furthermore they emulate the lost language of the Atlanteans - consisting of strange babblings, mystical cries, meaningful drools, and a vocabulary totally unintelligible to anyone not in the same condition. The race memory of swimming in the Deeps has come back to them; the condition is referred to as being 'blootered' an obvious link with the Deeps themselves. The circular imagery which links it with the moat-ringed city of Aztlan, the the sun worship of Egypt, and the Sun Gods of the pre-Columbian Indians, is shown by the importance [illegible] the number of 'rounds'. (One must NEVER need reminding when it is their 'turn' and the ultimate [illegible] of of a fellow analyst is "And the acid's falls [illegible] in different directions".

But this does not explain why Scotland, and particularly the West of Scotland, has become so inextricably bound up in the Atlantis myth.

During an archaeological dig on the last weekend of September, 1977, Prof. Goodnough (who holds Tweedley College's Chair of Scandinavian Studies) identified a crushed metal object as a discarded lager can over ten thousand years old!! The remains of this historic lager can were found on the Island of Arran in the Firth of Clyde as you may remember (or may not, as the case may be). Some detailed analysis of the object dispelled any possibility that the contents had evaporated - they had been emptied in the last eight years or so.

Thus we have demonstrated quite beyond any reasonable suspicion that the drinking habits of the Western Scot have remained constant, and furthermore unchanged, for as goodness knows how long, if not longer.

What other peculiarities are associated with Arran? Well it certainly is geologically interesting, rich in minerals which are rare in the West of Scotland. Amongst these are clays which carry numerous marine fossils embedded in a great variety. Furthermore the peaked profile reminds one of the 'dolphin backed island' which is how some writers of old referred to Atlantis. If you look at a map you will see that Arran rests in a virtual crater, as if this was punched out by the island dropping down on to Scotland. If it did so, surely there would have been drastic, even awful, consequences?

Northern Ireland and the West of Scotland are linked geomorphologically. (We recently secured a Department of Education grant for buying a dictionary.) Some catastrophe separated the two and caused the two great fault lines which run roughly from S.W. to N.E., starting in Ireland and running right across Scotland. Interestingly, Arran lies between these.

Now if the impact of the flying landmass which we know as Arran caused this there must be some indication of a major event somewhere in the Atlantic.

There is indeed.

In the vicinity of the Azores there is a great deal of volcanic activity. Also, it is here that the tectonic plates of Eurasia, Africa, and America intersect. The Eurasian/African one runs at about 90° from the Mid Atlantic Ridge. Peculiarly enough, the active fracture zones along the ridge are all but absent from this area but are compressed at unusual densities to the North and South, particularly the former, leaving a most peculiar situation altogether and entirely.

But one that we have come to expect!

The evidence indicates what happened in the very distant past. There can be no doubt that a comet, or cluster of meteors hit Earth in mid-Atlantic several thousands of years ago, causing great woe and some annoyance to the peoples of Atlantis.

The capturing of the comet head or meteor cluster would have put them in a rapidly decaying orbit about the world. The chances are [illegible] of this incoming mass [illegible] just collapsing straight down. So they might easily have come in at a fairly shallow angle - probably 6° - and pulverised Atlantis. But their impact would also have sent a large son of Atlantis flying through the sky at an impressive rate of knots. Here we see the religious connotation of the game built around a ball being batted through the air, while great rapture is caused among both the players and the spectators to simulate the personal effects on the population of Atlantis, amongst whom there must have been a great many, perhaps even dozens, of deaths.

Now if this were what flying at an angle of 6°, we cannot expect that the full quasi-critical velocity of the impact would have been such that a great deal of the energy involved would have been used up in other than Atlantis trajectory activity. We should therefore assume that the suborbital flight of the portion of Atlantis which survived, travelled at no more than a third of escape velocity, more probably in the region of some three thousand metres per second. Such a path and velocity would certainly have transferred Atlantis to the Firth of Clyde region.

Place names, as we said before, are highly revealing. Antlan, Atlantis, and Arran sound so similar that there can be no doubt in any reasonable mind that the association is there, particularly when one participates in the religious fervour of the Scottishness and the mind is suitably inspired to profound free association.

Agent for the Authors — Chris Boyce

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25years on

Bob Shaw

The first issue of Nebula was rather odd. It had, for example, letters of comment on itself, and the literary material was somewhat different from what one might have expected. But my first sight of it was a mere two years ago, so I'm not really one to judge, not even being born when it was published!

The story in that magazine [illegible] remarkable, however. I reckon (and I'm happy to be corrected) it could have been the first British publication of A. E. Van Vogt's "Dear Pen Pal", which must surely rank as one of the all time greats. When Peter Hamilton published that first issue [illegible] the cover, for example, was given over to a very poor [illegible], thankfully now lost!

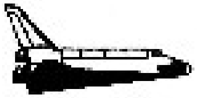
But what really caught my eye was an advert for a fan group. A half page was taken up by a bold proclamation that fandom was alive and well, and living in Glasgow. Now, I had assumed that I knew the history of fandom around those parts, and the "[illegible]" group had never before revealed itself to me. I knew various folk who'd been around then (Ken, Don and Peter, I won't name you here. Oops!) and they had never mentioned any such group.

The man I sought was one [illegible], but he no longer had to be found at his old address; but there was someone of that name currently living in East Kilbride, near Glasgow. Normally it would have been a simple matter of a breezy little phone call, but I of all people have a certain knowledge of the potential slips that [illegible] many times we've had [illegible]!

So "Hello, may I speak to Mr [illegible]?" "Speaking." "I have a rather odd question I'd like to put to you: Are you interested in Science-Fiction?" From the telephone came the puzzled reply: "Well, I used to read it a lot when I was younger...." "Great", I purred. It was at this point that I threw caution to the winds, and said: "I'm replying to your advert in Nebula!"

I had never before heard the noise a telephone makes when it's dropped. In retrospect, I suppose my call was unexpected. A quarter of a century is a long time in fandom's history; it must be a bit like calling up King Richard, offering to go on a crusade!

It turned out that the fan group had not, for some time, [illegible] interest [illegible] the first and only for over twenty years. I hope that, in the year 2004 (or so) I react as courteously and well as Mr [illegible] did, when the newly installed videophone chimes and a spotty youth asks me about Faircon....



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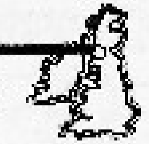

the committee

Due to the [illegible] disparity of their ages (ranging from the [illegible] to the [illegible] only), [illegible] of the FAIRCON '78 Committee are [illegible]. Some were born, in fact, [illegible] the [illegible] them.

Instead, we offer convention-goers the added thrill of identifying them from the following descriptions, helped by the fact that they should be wearing Committee Badges.

Jim Allan A recent convert, Jim has been the source of many free [illegible] (his [illegible] comes up in August). In the construction field. His other interests are pints of Export, mountaineering, [illegible], Reggae music, Glasgow Celtic, gambling, and......[illegible]).

Sandy Brown A quantity Surveyor, interested in photography. [illegible] twenty, [illegible] for FAIRCON – the only married member of the Committee (all unattached female convention-goers please note). Claims to be [illegible] of Friends of Kilgore Trout Fanzine (FOKT), and the only [illegible] of a White Russian Royal Family murdered by the Bolsheviks.

Ed Buckley [illegible], he [illegible] behind the scenes, [illegible] between the [illegible] with [illegible]. Adding to the mystery is his [illegible] of a story, [illegible] "only 3½ days to go". [illegible]

Jim Campbell Used to drive [illegible] for a living, [illegible] to his first love (computers!), [illegible] he is a [illegible] in Glasgow. Keeps a huge collection of SF and people in his flat.

Kevin Clark [illegible] figure can be found [illegible] against the nearest bar/wall (either or both). Addicted to [illegible] beverages, "[illegible]" (see Art Show), and [illegible]. Occasionally [illegible] conversation with SF, Fandom, and particularly [illegible]

Trout. First to recognise him [illegible] a night [illegible] buy him drinks all week-end.

Ivan Griggs Born in Boston (the one in Lincolnshire!), came to Glasgow four years ago. Graduated in Production Management at Strathclyde University where he is Chairman of the Students Union General Committee of Clubs and Societies.

Bob Jewett A laboratory technician at Glasgow's [illegible] Hospital, [illegible] which he refuses to [illegible]. It may be connected with bug-growing activities in [illegible] (cf. [illegible] Dr. Jekyll, [illegible]). [illegible] and the [illegible] drinking more.

John Mooney Student [illegible] from Clydebank. Has a caterpillar on upper lip, [illegible] "[illegible]" [illegible] glasses and [illegible] jacket [illegible]

Willie Nisbet Lecturer, hippie type, gentle and serene disposition, with an admitted addiction to Coca-Cola. Then (his description). Has caused panic among Glasgow Public Zoo, at sight of him, thought the Second Coming was at hand. Has promised to get [illegible] out for the Convention ([illegible], Willie?).

Jimmy Robertson A fluent speaker of the Glasgow "patter", he drives a computer for British Steel. [illegible] "The [illegible] Man" (see [illegible] Magazine [illegible]). Soon to be married, rumour has it that this event was put off three times as a result of meeting the [illegible] two years ago.

Bruce Saville Studying chemistry at Strathclyde University where he is President of Chess and SF Society. [illegible] (watch your Golden Wonders). Unofficially described as nondescript. (Officially described as nondescript.) Due to [illegible] sober at conventions, is fabulously wealthy.

Bob Shaw(c) [illegible]. [illegible] for his self-effacing charm (which is why [illegible] his ~~[illegible]~~ entry in this book). Has been art student, comics collector, [illegible] collector, and [illegible]. Has sold one story and told many more. [illegible] of a ginger cat, he HATES all [illegible].

Howard Singerman (Glasgow's answer to [illegible]). Went to his first convention in 1975, and found himself [illegible] in a crowd of drunken fans from Glasgow. Has been trying (unsuccessfully) to disassociate himself from the Circle next door, for fear of expulsion from the Tea Society.

Dave Somerville born in Glasgow in the year double-nought, he has been interested in SF since he was 12. Biochemistry technician, he is also interested in sports - football, athletics, cycling; and music - rock, reggae.

John Welsh Student at Glasgow University. A recluse, he resisted the advances of FOKT for over a year before succumbing. Wears glasses (also been known to drink from same) AND wants to write science fiction.

the cat The only [illegible]-furred member of the Committee. He usually enjoyed a somewhat [illegible] at meetings, but helped keep matters under control by punishing [illegible] of any nearby limb (foot, leg, etc.) which came his way during violent disagreements. . . . .

fokt

AS IT BEGAN? In Easter 1974 the Friends Of Kilgore Trout's parents met, before they realised it there was a fan group alive and well and looking for a pub. Being good people, these original "Founding Six" thought it unfair to bring a child into the world without naming it.

John Duffy thought of it first, Ian Black echoed his enthusiasm, along with Alan Milne, Linda Joyce and Jim Campbell applauded warmly, while the lost [illegible] of the [illegible] went off to St. Andrews, never to surface again.

The Friends Of Kilgore Trout were baptised in a boozy bar named The [illegible], one of the last genuine Glasgow pubs. (That's not sawdust on the floor, Jimmy, it's last night's furniture....) Having failed to persuade any female to come there running, a change was made to a classier establishment, the [illegible], in Hope Street. Here too were problems, not least being the sheer [illegible] of the place with the rest of humanity. At last, after six months of travel, the perfect home was found in the [illegible], a large and empty pub in the West End. FOKT had a name, and now - a home!* It now only remained for it to start making friends.

We're now the biggest, and perhaps the longest-lived, fan group ever in Glasgow; in fact, strong thought has been given to starting another FOKT on the south side of the city.

The parents of our Group hardly come by any more; most have moved away or found other sources of malt drink and cheer but, at FAIRCON, we hope they will all be about (at least in spirit), and looking on with shock and awe at the proceedings. "My," they'll say, "look how you've grown!"

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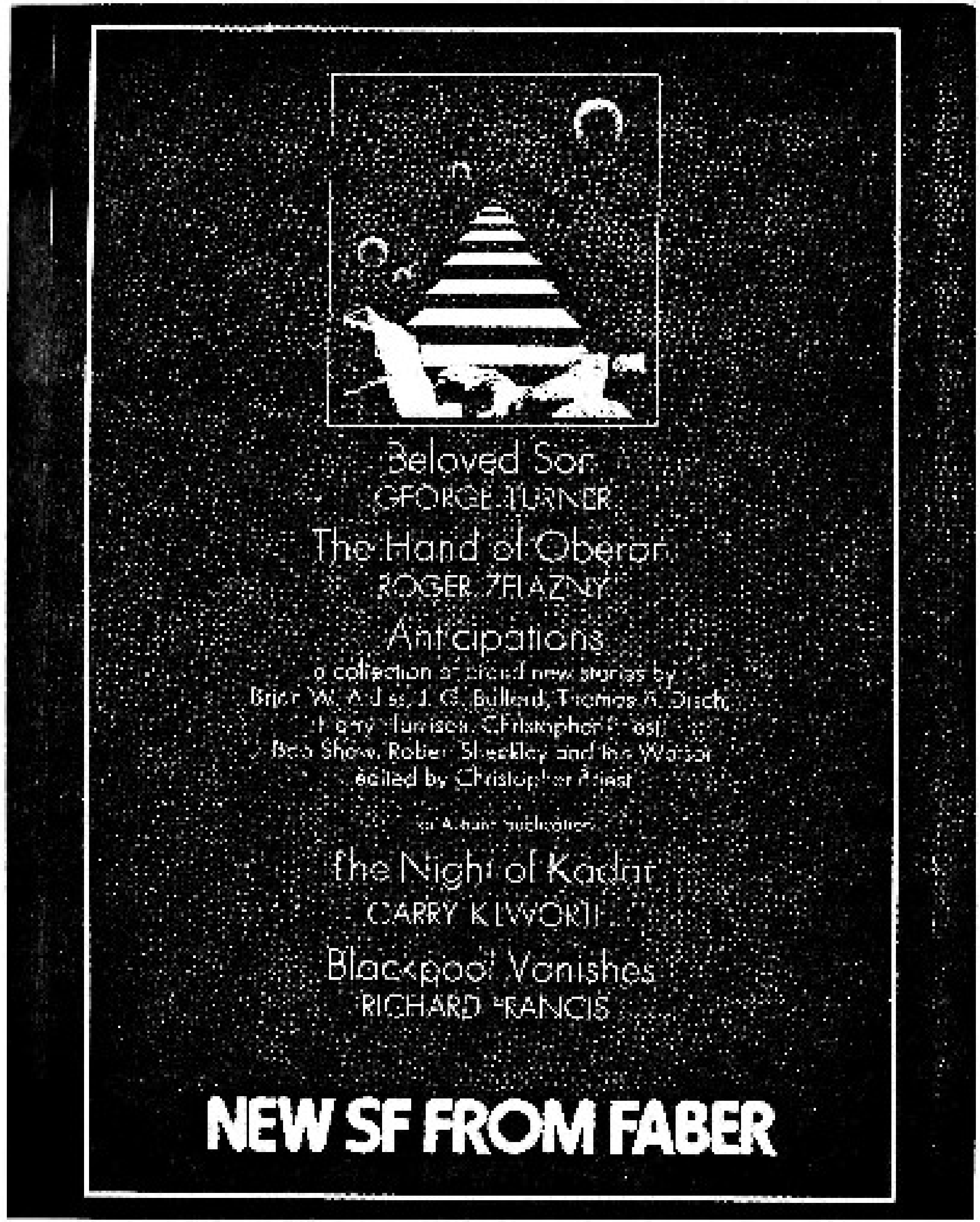
* Of course, as soon as we'd had publicity material printed, the pub changed hands; it is now [illegible], and we're stuck with 500 postcards promoting the [illegible]!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GEORGE TURNER
The Hand of Oberon
ROGER ZELAZNY
Anticipations
a collection of proud new stories by
Brian W. Aldiss, J. G. Ballard, Thomas M. Disch,
Harry Harrison, Christopher Priest,
Bob Shaw, Robert Sheckley and Ian Watson
edited by Christopher Priest
[illegible]
The Night of Kadar
GARRY KILWORTH
Blackpool Vanishes
RICHARD FRANCIS
NEW SF FROM FABER

Phantom Fandom

Many things and people have disappeared in Scotland over the centuries, such as millions of gallons of whisky and the Ninth Legion. So it's perhaps not surprising that Scottish fandom has been somewhat nebulous until the 1970s.

In 1965, I had a note published in the April VECTOR (No.33). I thought then that there were enough BSFA members in Scotland to justify a one-day meeting, probably in Glasgow. There was a Caledonian (?) SF group, with six founder members. It is at this point that I wish my time machine wasn't getting its M.O.T., then I could have nipped back to 1965 and found out what the group did, if anything.

The fans I knew at that time were Harry Manson, Gavin Brown, Jim Inglis, and Ivor Latto. Harry and Gavin were old-time fans who, were they alive today, would be members of First Fandom. Both were killed in accidents in the early '70s. Jim Inglis had some short stories published, in NEBULA and in NEW WRITINGS IN SF. Around 1970, Jim went off the lines, and I haven't heard of, or from him since. Harry, Gavin, Jim and I met frequently to discuss SF and many other subjects, but, as far as I can recall, nothing formal was ever done.

Ivor was very keen to publish a fanzine, which he did in June 1965. Called BAFFLE, it proved to be a one-shot of 26 unnumbered duplicated pages of quarto size. It's now reported that Ivor is no longer interested in SF.

Possibly Drs. A.R.Roy and I.F.Clarke were the missing founder members of the Caledonian SF Group. Both were - and still are - very interested in SF. If that was the case, then the group had a strong writing base. They probably weren't one of the magical six.

Scotcon, as it was majestically called, never happened. In VECTOR No.35 I reported that six people (including John Brunner) had replied to my flier. Brian Aldiss had agreed to be Guest of Honour. Ah! What might have been.....

Now, in 1978, we do have an energetic fan group in The Friends of Kilgore Trout, and we are meeting in Glasgow at Faircon, Scotland's first convention. Should you happen to see many ghosts, welcome them in.

★ **Don Malcolm**

..............Another Fan's View

It was the spring of 1947 and Britain was emerging from World War II.

Rationing was still very much a part of life although the beginnings of promised plenty were soon to be in evidence. In one respect we were almost starved: apart from ASTOUNDING (BRE) there was no S.F. You could scour a whole bookshop and find nothing but cheap editions of Verne and Wells.

Then the Glasgow Evening Times' Diary briefly announced that the First Officer on board a cargo vessel currently in King George V dock was the distinguished science fiction writer A. Bertram Chandler. I was in the early stages of secondary school at the time and the announcement carried all the excitement and awe of the first arrival of a man from outer space.

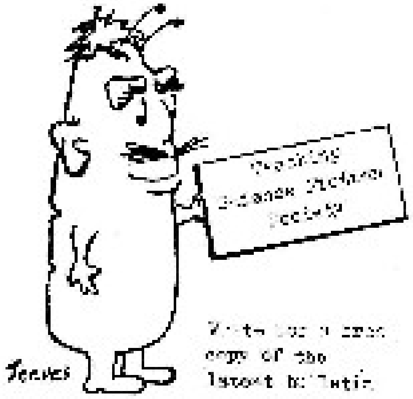
I persuaded a schoolfriend to join me, cycled to the dock, and we presented ourselves at the gangway. Chandler met us in his cabin and gave me the first issue of Wally Gillings' FANTASY REVIEW. This was my entry to fandom. Soon I was collecting magazines and in correspondence with Ken Slater. When " Operation Fantast ", Ken's science-fiction empire, was founded, I was its Scottish leader and searching for other Scots fans. There was no S.F. tartan army, though, and the few folk I knew then in Scotland have all vanished long ago. I did write to Walt Willis who was OF's man in Northern Ireland and I still have a copy of the first issue of SLANT.

In 1949 two of us skipped school, hitched to London and attended the Con. Ted Carnell and Charley Duncombe (where is Charley now?) put us up, and amongst others we met was the young, smiling, Arthur C. Clarke.

It's taken a long time to build up fandom in Scotland. I wish FAIRCON every success and wish there had been one thirty years ago.

★ **Peter B. Bell**

wishes all
a fair con



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(Please enclose s.a.e.)

strathclyde space+sf society

meetings on alternate tuesdays in the students union during term.....

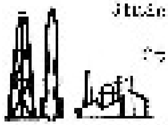
CHRYSALIS

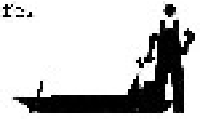
The magazine of the University of St. Andrews SF & Fantasy Society will be appearing in July and will be on sale at Faircon and in John Smith's bookshops.

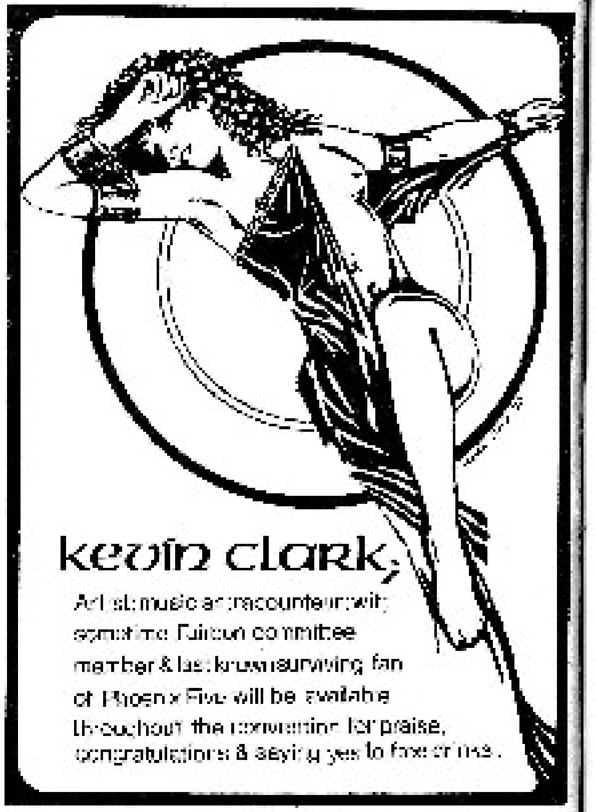
* * *

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the next edition or to exchange their fanzine for ours should contact our representatives at the con or write to

The Editor,
CHRYSALIS,
Students' Union,
St. Andrews,
Fife.







kevin clark;

Artist, musician, raconteur, wit, sometime Faircon committee member & last known surviving fan of Phoenix Five will be available throughout the convention for praise, congratulations & saying yes to free drinks.

FAIRCON '78 Membership

1	James White
2	Peggy White
20	Joyce Raine
3	Bob Shaw (*)
4	George Hallan
5	[illegible]
6	Jimmy Robertson
7	Andrew Muir
8	Allen Neill
9	Bob Jewett
10	[illegible]
11	John Kay
12	Mark Howard
13	Dan Crichton
14	Brian Angill
15	David Somerville
16	Kilgore Trout
17	Jim Campbell
18	Kevin Clark
19	Chris Hargreaves
20	Char Salecker
21	Thomas Dickson
22	John Dorsey
23	Ellen Allen
24	Howard Gingerman
25	Jim Barker
26	Joan Nelson
27	Damian Johnson
28	Morag Gilmore
29	Sandy Brown
30	Malcolm Loughton
31	A. R. Jones
32	Mick Lang
33	Kathleen Clancy
34	Albert Pickard
35	Ian Donald
36	Paul Briggs
37	Sam McKay
38	Donald Malcolm
39	David W. Lewis
40	Ethel Lindsay
41	Aida Malcolm
42	Gordon Malcolm
43	Derek Malcolm
44	Guy Mellor
45	Allan Milne
46	Bruce Saville
47	James Gemmill
48	Richard Mortensen
49	Ron Gardiner
50	Irene Fay
51	Richard J. Hughes
52	Colin Fine
53	Paul L. Turner
54	Peter F. Lawrence
55	Frank Dryson
56	Colin Baxter
57	Kerr Anderson
58	Beth Kellar
59	Margaret Draper
60	Ian Bister
61	Bob Shaw
62	James Hall
63	Duncan Lunan
64	Brian M. Allen
65	Jenny Thomson
66	Mike Gray
67	Dave Tennit
68	Graham Connor
69	Geoffrey Gaggs
70	Marjorie Edwards
71	Colin Henderson
72	Ros Lorimer
73	Gerry Muller
74	Stuart Finlay
75	Bill Rogers
76	Ian Edward Sinclair
77	Richard C. Smith
78	Pat Cooper
79	Kevin Roberts
80	Andrew Binnie
81	John Brander
82	Marjorie Brander
83	Richard McMahon
84	Martin MacGaig
85	Chris Boyce
86	Angel Wynne
87	Gerry Webb
88	William D. Nisbet
89	Alan Jones
90	Trevor Briggs
91	John Thomson
92	Agnes Dickson
93	Peg Barber
94	Dave Mairs
95	A. J. Taylor
96	John D. Kerr
97	James Lord
98	Colin Foster
99	Bob Long
100	Lisa Lipman
101	Vernon Brown
102	Bill Curtis
103	Ed Buckley
104	Mike Wild
105	Alan Stephen
106	Lorna Sharrock
107	Ian Sharrock
108	Pamela J. Martin
109	Bill Treson
110	Ian Garbutt
111	J. Stewart
112	Paul Anglini
113	Phil Palmer
114	Roger G. Peyton
115	Derek Swain
116	Chris Fowler
117	Tim Illingworth
118	Jim Allan
119	Marie Tilley
120	Peter D. Crilly
121	Ken Lean
122	Ray Jameson
123	J. R. Arnold
124	Elsie Donald
125	S. McMorrin
126	Maria McMullin
127	Justine Fitzsimley
128	Mark Dunn
129	Gordon Brecht
130	J. M. Sargent
131	Andrew Townsend
132	Stephen Taggart
133	Dai Jones
134	Glenn Southington
135	Edward Broughton
136	Kev Williams
137	Alex Stevens
138	June Robson
139	Helen V. Jones
140	Maria Robinson
141	Peter Templeton
142	Frank Harwood
143	Sharon Spirg
144	Mike Dickinson
145	Dave Goldfarb
146	Jennie Cousins
147	Samuel Farr
148	Al Fitzpatrick
149	R. C. Gibson
150	Helen Joy Gilbert
151	Lesley Herrington
152	Andrew Sutherland
153	Jim Johnston
156	Dan Jones
157	Jim Lee
158	Lawrence Miller
159	Peter Bailey
160	Angela McInnes
161	Andrew Kenstead
162	Ian Watson
163	Daniel Cameron
164	David Ellis
165	David Wood
166	Terry Carter
167	Fred Stoney
168	Joyce Slater
169	Michael Slater
170	Marcia Slater
171	Owen Whiteoak
172	Malcolm Gibb
173	Rosemary Ball
174	J. C. Broughton
175	Alexander Finlay
176	Andrew C. Irvine
177	Anne Gallagher
178	Ian G. Neilson
179	John Hall
180	Victor Tierney
181	Peter Hamilton
182	Robert Aitchison
184	Moira Duffy
185	John McLachlan

Members at 5th July 1978 ((*) indicates Guest)